



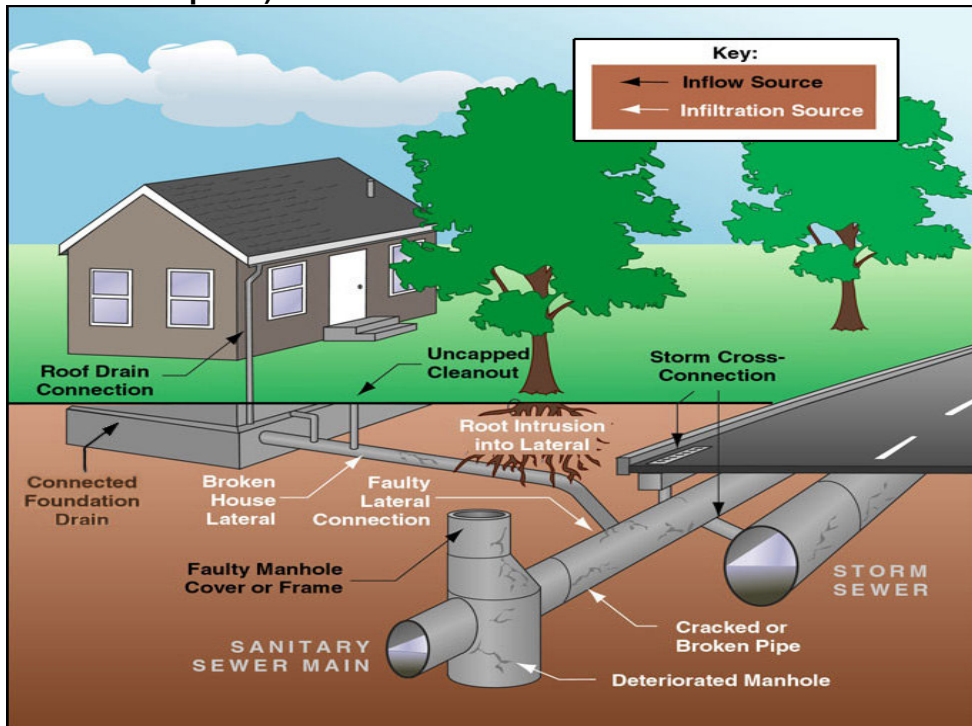
City of Saint Paul
Public Works Department
Sewer Utility



SMOKE TESTING NOTICE

Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) Reduction Program

In **August & September**, S.E.H a Contractor working for the Saint Paul Sewer Utility will be conducting smoke tests of the sanitary sewer system in your neighborhood (see the enclosed map for specific testing area). **Smoke testing is planned to begin on August 5th** (you will be notified 24 – 48 hours before the test will take place).



A Public Informational Meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, August 4, 2008, at the Saint Paul Hamline-Midway Library (1558 W. Minnehaha Avenue).

At the beginning of the meeting there will be a brief presentation and then time for questions and answers.

Please see the enclosed Frequently Asked Questions sheet and testing area Map.

Also please find enclosed a **Questionnaire** which is a self-addressed pre-paid postcard with five short questions to fill out and return. **Your time is appreciated !**

The purpose of these tests is to find defects and faulty connections where excess rain water (*Inflow*) and ground water (*Infiltration*) can enter the sanitary sewer system, negatively affecting its economical and safe functioning. Illegal Inflow sources/connections include: sump pumps, roof and foundation drains, and storm drain cross-connections. The information gained from smoke testing will help the City find and eliminate unknown sources of (I/I) entering the sanitary sewer system. **Reducing I/I is an on-going City effort to help:**

- ***Comply with the Met Council Rules.*** In 2013 the Metropolitan Council of Environmental Services (MCES) may add an annual demand charge of \$3.5 million to Saint Paul's wastewater treatment bills if the excessive I/I is not removed from the system. The amount of I/I defined as excessive is determined by MCES. For more information on the surcharge program visit the Met Council's website @ www.metrocouncil.org/environment/ProjectTeams/I-I-Home.htm
- ***Maintain Health & Safety (Reduce the Risk of Sewer Back-ups and Sinkholes).***
- ***Extend the Service Life of Public Infrastructure (Lift stations, sewer pipe, etc.)***
- ***Reduce Wastewater Treatment Costs by reducing the amount of clear water that is treated.***

Please see other side of this letter for More Smoke Testing Information !!!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SMOKE TESTING

Process:

- Simulated smoke will be injected into the sewer system. As a result smoke may be seen coming from manhole covers, storm drains, roof vents, and building foundations.
- After each setup the smoke test will last approximately 30 minutes.
- Photographs will be taken to document potential leaks/defects.
- Homeowners do not need to be home and inspection crews will not need to enter your home.
- Residents/Homeowners can still use faucets and bathroom facilities during smoke testing.

Tips to prevent smoke from entering your home (complete prior to test):

- **Run water faucets for a few seconds in unused sinks, tubs, and drains to fill fixture traps.**
- **Pour water into each basement floor drain (at least 1 gallon)**
- If you have defective plumbing (i.e. no trap), you should consult with a licensed plumber.

If you notice smoke in your home:

- **Do NOT become alarmed.**
- Open doors and windows to ventilate the premises to clear smoke.
- Contact S.E.H Crew Chief, Paul Kubesh @ (612) 597-3882.
- Simulated smoke will not stain walls or furniture; nor will it leave a residue.
- Consult a licensed plumber in the near future to identify the smoke access area, as the potential exists for sewer gases to enter your home in the same manner.

Safety/ Health Issues:

- There is **NO** danger of fire or explosion of sewer gas with the smoke testing process.
- St. Paul Police and Fire Departments will be notified of the smoke testing.
- **Simulated smoke is not harmful to your health, but may cause some coughing.** Smoke irritation is temporary and should disappear after exposure has ceased. When possible avoid unnecessary exposure to simulated smoke.
- **If there is an individual in your home or business who has respiratory problems and/or mobility limitations please contact the Sewer Utility at (651-266-6171), before August 4, 2008.**
- A copy of Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the simulated smoke can be found on Saint Paul's Home website page (www.stpaul.gov) under the headings of Government/Public Works/ Sewer Utility/ Smoke Testing/ Safety. Copies are also available at the Hamline-Midway Library.

For Questions Before August 4th – Please Contact Saint Paul Sewer Utility



Aaron Hass
Saint Paul Sewer Utility
(651) 266-6171
aaron.hass@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Alternate Contact:
Sewer Utility Service Desk
(651) 266-6234

For Questions After August 4th & During Testing – Please Contact S.E.H



Paul Kubesh
Smoke Testing Crew Chief (S.E.H - St. Paul Contractor)
(612) 597-3882

Thank you for your cooperation !!